

## Quarantined allergy patient gives birth to healthy baby

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) — A former beauty queen, quarantined because of severe allergic reactions, proved doubting doctors wrong by giving birth to a healthy baby girl in a sterilized environment that has been her world for almost a year.

Debra Paoletto, 26, gave birth to the 7½-pound baby, Elke, on Saturday despite physicians' fears that she would not be able to carry the child to full term.

Paoletto, a former Miss Sunshine Coast, was diagnosed in 1988 as suffering from "environmental illness" — meaning she was severely allergic to common aspects of the modern world.

After suffering recurring vomiting, dizziness and mood swings, she spent six months in a U.S. clinic and came home last June to a sterile porcelain room at in a coastal town of Queensland.

She cannot read books because she is allergic to ink. She can wear only cotton or silk clothes and anyone who goes near her must first scrub down their body and clothes with bicarbonate of soda.

Her husband of almost three years, 26-year-old mining engineer Christian, moved into the environment this year after his wife's health improved. She now takes short trips outside the



—Reuter photo

### Defied allergy: Debra Paoletto with daughter Elke

room to her in-laws' house.

Her family believes chemical pollutants in Queensland may have triggered the hypersensitiv-

ity in Debra Paoletto.

Paoletto's improving health has given the former pre-school teacher new hope of leading a normal life with her husband.